

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Location: The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) is located in south central Ohio in rural Pike County, Ohio. The 3,714 acre site is 22 miles north of Portsmouth, Ohio.



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History: Construction of the Portsmouth GDP began in late 1952. The mission of the plant was to increase the national production of enriched uranium and maintain the nation's superiority in the development and use of nuclear energy. In 1992 the Federal Energy Policy Act established the government-owned United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to assume the uranium enrichment operations from DOE. On July 1, 1993, management of the uranium enrichment operations at the Portsmouth GDP was transferred from DOE to USEC under a lease agreement. In April 1996, the USEC Privatization Act was signed into law and in March 1997, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued USEC a certificate of compliance for enrichment operations. DOE continues to have responsibility for legacy Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU), environmental restoration and waste management activities at the plant.

Current Mission: Two major programs of DOE have missions at Portsmouth. Nuclear Energy (NE) is the site landlord and has responsibility for the DOE/USEC lease management, depleted uranium hexafluoride, legacy HEU material, PCB contaminated wastes, and maintenance of facilities not leased to USEC. The Environmental Management (EM) program includes environmental cleanup and waste management activities. Program highlights include:

- DOE ceased production of HEU in 1991. Removal of in-process HEU inventory was completed in January 1993. In 1996, DOE completed chemical

treatment of installed enrichment process equipment to minimize residual quantities of HEU. Removal of Category I quantities of stored HEU material was completed in 1999 allowing a significant reduction in security costs. Included in this effort was the downblending of over 22 metric tons of HEU to commercial reactor grade specification, with oversight of this activity by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

- DOE oversees the safe storage of over 16,000 cylinders of depleted uranium hexafluoride, the byproduct of the enrichment process and will begin chemical conversion of this material to a more stable form in approximately 4-5 years.
- Under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) regulatory process, site characterizations and studies have been performed to determine the areas of contamination. These areas have been prioritized for remedial action. Oversight of cleanup activities at the site is being provided by consent agreements signed initially in 1989 with the state of Ohio and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The state and the U.S. EPA have authorized the Ohio EPA to oversee day-to-day cleanup activities at the plant.
- The Waste Management Program is aggressively eliminating or minimizing wastes from environmental restoration projects, legacy operations and support activities.

Employment: Total site employment is approximately 2300 people with approximately 2100 USEC employees and over 200 employees working on DOE mission areas.

Portsmouth Budget (\$ in Millions)		
	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001 Request</u>
EM Funding	\$46.1	\$76.2
NE Funding	\$16.3	\$27.0